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HEALTH

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



(Herts)

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1957**

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.  
July, 1958.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my twelfth annual report together with that of the Public Health Inspector upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1957.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 1/58.

The vital statistics for the district were again satisfactory. The birth rate was 15.61 compared with the rate for England and Wales of 16.1. The death rate for Cheshunt was 9.6 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The incidence of infectious diseases generally was low with the exception of measles of which there was a minor epidemic of 622 cases.

Seven cases of poliomyelitis were confirmed during the year.

Adequate facilities are now available for vaccination against poliomyelitis and it is very desirable that eligible children and expectant mothers should obtain this protection and they can do so by registering at Welfare Clinics or with their own medical practitioner.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred at a Waltham Cross School in which 174 children and members of the staff were affected. The meat causing the illness was stewed beef which had been cooked the day before required, allowed to cool slowly and then reheated before serving. This practice is a common cause of *Cl.welchii* food poisoning and as a result of this outbreak the County Council issued instructions to all school canteens to cease the practice of pre-cooking and reheating meat.

I should like to express my thanks to Dr. Betty Hobbs of the Food Hygiene Laboratory, Colindale, for valuable assistance and advice in the investigation of this outbreak.

I should also like once again to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the department.

C. R. HILLIS,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# Urban District Council of Cheshunt

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957-1958

Councillor H. T. HALL (*Chairman*)

Councillor E. W. DOBBS

Councillor W. DRYDEN

Councillor R. P. HIGGS

Councillor R. H. MARCHANT

Councillor Mrs. E. C. OAKDEN

Councillor A. G. WEBB

Councillor R. G. YOUNG, J.P.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Public Health Inspector, Inspector under the  
Petroleum Act:*

C. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors:*

S. C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

G. H. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### GENERAL

*Clerk/Typist:* Miss T. PAVELY.

*Clerk:* Mr. R. C. LOCKWOOD.

(On National Service from 26.9.57.)

Miss G. MOAKES.

(Commenced 21.10.57.)

*Rodent Operative:* Mr. P. F. DEAN.

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1946	20,230	1950	22,180	1954	25,350
1947	21,080	1951	23,290	1955	26,090
1948	21,210	1952	23,880	1956	27,000
1949	21,490	1953	24,670	1957	28,050
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books (at 1st April)				1957	1958
				8,450	9,084
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£340,670	£368,889
Sum represented by penny rate				£1,435	£1,525

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	..	110	94	204
Live Births—Legitimate	..	237	233	470
Illegitimate	..	7	4	11
Still Births—Legitimate	..	4	3	7
Illegitimate	..	—	1	1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:				
Legitimate	..	3	4	7
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:				
Legitimate	..	2	3	5
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—

## COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1953	7.26	1.11	8.06	11.4
1954	7.57	1.11	8.40	11.3
1955	7.36	1.11	8.17	11.7
1956	6.19	1.30	8.05	11.7
1957	7.27	1.32	9.60	11.5
	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1953	14.31	0.95	13.59	15.5
1954	14.99	0.95	14.24	15.2
1955	14.68	0.95	13.95	15.0
1956	16.93	0.92	15.58	15.7
1957	17.15	0.91	15.61	16.1
			1956	1957
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt ... ... ...			27.66	16.36
Maternal Mortality, Cheshunt:				
Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ... ... ...			1	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY:

All infants per 1,000 live births  
 Cheshunt      England and Wales

Year		No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1948	...	6	14.35	34
1949	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	...	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	12	31.58	25.5
1955	...	4	10.44	24.9
1956	...	8	17.51	23.8
1957	...	7	14.55	23.0

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1957:

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	..	..	—	2      2
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—
Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	—	7	3	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	—	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	14	12	—	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	—	—	—
Diabetes	..	..	—	—	—

			Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..		11	19	30
Coronary disease, angina ..	..		24	12	36
Hypertension with heart disease ..	..		3	4	7
Other heart disease ..	..		9	7	16
Other circulatory disease ..	..		4	4	8
Influenza ..	..		2	2	4
Pneumonia ..	..		5	1	6
Bronchitis ..	..		4	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	..		—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	..		3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	..		1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	..		1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	..		1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..		—	—	—
Congenital malformations ..	..		1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	..		8	11	19
Motor vehicle accidents ..	..		3	—	3
All other accidents ..	..		3	2	5
Suicide ..	..		3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war ..	..		2	—	2
<b>All causes ..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>204</b>

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday to Friday (inclusive), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 4th Tuesday morning in each month.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Friday: 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday: 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday: 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 9.45 a.m.).

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1957: two shift leaders, eight ambulance drivers, one ambulance, one sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 4878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel.: No. W.X. 4658). Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1957, 60. Cases assisted during 1957, 291.

WELFARE  
CENTRES

Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt. Thursday: 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. Doctor attends.

Community Centre, Edmonton Estate, Flamstead End, Tuesday afternoon. Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel.: Waltham Cross 3401).

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday 9 to 10 a.m.

Mothers Club—Wednesday evenings.

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic. Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Thursdays 9 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 1.45 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Thursday a.m. and p.m. Friday a.m. and p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS  
AND SCHOOL  
NURSES

Miss M. N. Hilton, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross, (Waltham Cross 3401).

Mrs. I. Jorgensen, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross.

Mrs. J. P. Wilkins, The Wolery, Carnary Road, Broxbourne.

Miss J. P. Young, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak, (Cuffley 2420).

**DISTRICT NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES** Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178  
High Street, Waltham Cross, (Waltham  
Cross 3127).  
Miss M. Smith, 24 Cromwell Avenue,  
Cheshunt, (Waltham Cross 3580).  
Miss M. G. Brown, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's  
Oak, (Cuffley 2420).  
Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead  
End, (Waltham Cross 3410).  
Miss G. D. Taylor, 1 Prescott Road,  
Cheshunt, (Waltham Cross 2344).

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Blood donor sessions have been held at intervals during the year at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross. More donors are still urgently needed.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49 Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3206.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194 High Street, Waltham Cross Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 4658.

In addition to their normal activities the local detachment have available a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, "Folkvang." Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No. Waltham Cross 3165.

Invalid food distribution is undertaken by Mrs. Drake, "Bollington," Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Hertford County Hospital. Larger scale facilities are available at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale and the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

### MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year seven bodies were received in the mortuary.

### W.V.S. MEALS SERVICE

In June the Council adopted a scheme for a Meals on Wheels service for house bound people nominated from statutory welfare sources. The scheme is operated by the W.V.S., the Council paying a subsidy on the cost of the meals.

## SECTION III

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1956 and 1957:—

	1956		1957	
	Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	..	13	15	—
Measles	..	58	622	1
Whooping Cough	..	98	127	1
Pneumonia	..	38	44	6
Erysipelas	..	2	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	6	5	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	2	7	7
Dysentery	..	8	1	—
Food Poisoning	..	6	7	—
Ophthalmia				
Neonatorum		4	—	—
Tuberculosis	..	11	14	9
Paratyphoid Fever	..	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	..	4	1	1

#### MEASLES

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year	Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1957	622	22.17
1956	58	2.15
1955	740	28.36
1954	4	0.16
1953	660	26.75
1952	199	8.33
1951	580	24.90
1950	22	0.99
1949	450	20.94
1948	128	6.04

## WHOOPING COUGH

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year			Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1957	..	..	127	4.53
1956	..	..	98	3.63
1955	..	..	6	0.23
1954	..	..	32	1.26
1953	..	..	247	10.01
1952	..	..	88	3.10
1951	..	..	71	3.05
1950	..	..	130	5.86
1949	..	..	48	2.23
1948	..	..	108	5.09

## POLIOMYELITIS.

Ten cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year but in three cases the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.

Of the seven confirmed cases one was an adult and the others children between the ages of four and eleven years. Four of the cases were paralytic and three non-paralytic.

The usual surveillance of contacts was maintained in all cases.

## FOOD POISONING.

The seven cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year comprised four single cases and one family outbreak with three cases. Extensive investigations were undertaken and although in two cases pressed pork was the suspected food stuff, in none of the cases was the causative agent identified.

There was a major food poisoning outbreak in March which originated at a school canteen in Waltham Cross. Of the 200 persons at risk 174 cases were ascertained. The causative agent was identified as *Cl. welchii* and the food implicated was frozen chuck steak which had been pre-cooked the day before it was required, allowed to cool slowly and then re-heated. The severity of the illness in most cases was acute but its duration only 24 hours.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1957 was 14 compared with 11 cases in 1956.

New Cases, 1957—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	2	—	1	4
25—35	3	3	—	1	7
35—45	1	—	—	—	1
45—55	2	—	—	—	2
55—65	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—
	7	5	—	2	14

		1956	1957
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt	.. .. .. ..	10	14

There were two deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1957.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## SECTION IV

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

##### INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 3,407 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 745 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

##### SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	149
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	138
Number of premises other than houses inspected	1,368
Premises re-inspected	709
Visits to works in progress	82
Miscellaneous visits	961
	3,407

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools	33
"    " places of public entertainment	13
"    " swimming bath	6
"    " movable dwellings	130
"    " re keeping animals	30
"    " Petroleum Acts	152
"    " Shops Acts	8
"    " collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	301
"    " infectious diseases and disinfections	183
"    " drainage	23
"    " rats and mice...	58

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

## CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Twelve demolition orders and nine closing orders were made during the year bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with by demolition or closing orders since the beginning of 1953 to 112.

In July, 1955 the Council submitted to the Minister proposals for dealing with 43 houses in two years. Of the 43 houses on the list approved four have been reconditioned and one found to be not unfit. The remaining 38 have been dealt with by demolition or closing orders.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area Procedure of the Housing Act during the year.

The houses dealt with in 1957 were as follows:

### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Address	Date Order made
53, 55, High Street, Cheshunt	27.2.57
161, 163, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	21.5.57
50, High Street, Cheshunt	26.6.57
128, Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross	27.11.57
1, 3, Albury Grove Road, Cheshunt	27.11.57
3, 4, 5, 6, Primrose Cottages, Brookfield Lane, Cheshunt	27.11.57

### CLOSING ORDERS.

42, High Street, Cheshunt	27.2.57
34, Albert Road, Waltham Cross	27.2.57
136, High Street, Cheshunt	21.5.57
161, 163, 165, 171, High Street, Cheshunt	24.7.57
158, High Street, Cheshunt	25.9.57
44, High Street, Cheshunt	25.9.57

Twenty five houses were demolished during the year, this number including houses on which demolition orders were made in the previous year.

### THE RENT ACT, 1957.

The Rent Act came into force on 6th July, 1957, and many enquiries were received at the Council Offices from both landlords and tenants for information, but the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair was not so large as had been anticipated. The first application was received on 23rd September, and by the end of the year the number of applications submitted totalled 28. The position at the end of the year was as follows:

Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	12
Satisfactory Undertakings received from Landlords...				11
Applications pending	...	...	...	5

The effect of a Certificate of Disrepair is normally to reduce the recoverable rent to one and one-third times the gross value of the premises so long as the certificate remains in force.

If the Landlord's undertaking is not complied with after six months, the effect is the same.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949.—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Improvement Grants to the value of £636 were made during the year for improvements including the provision of bathrooms at the following three dwelling houses.

51, Albury Grove Road.

22, Forest Road.

5, Oakley Terrace, Flamstead End.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

##### Number of houses erected since 1945:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	...	1,408
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	...	694
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	...	185
By Private Enterprise	...	...	1,477
			3,764

##### Number of houses erected during 1957:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	...	199
By Private Enterprise	...	...	442
			641

#### OVERCROWDING.

Two cases of overcrowding were ascertained during the year. In one case a licence under Section 61, Housing Act, 1936, was granted to the occupier authorising him to permit the present occupants to sleep in the house for a period not exceeding 12 months.

A survey of eight hostels used for horticultural workers was made in November, but no contravention of statutory provisions was found.

## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

### 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	99	36	1	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ...	...	—	—	—
Total ... ...	106	36	1	—

There is one factory in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 46 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Thirty-eight inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

During the year the factories of Messrs. E. N. Bray, Ltd., Britannia Road, Waltham Cross, and Messrs. Geo. Monro, Ltd., Station Approach, Waltham Cross, were certified under Section 34 of the Act to be provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

## PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Under Regulation 5 of the Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, the County Council notify the District Council of applications for renewal of existing licences and ask whether there is any objection to the renewal of licences on sanitary grounds.

Twenty premises where licences were due for renewal at the end of the year were inspected and no sanitary matters affecting control of public safety and order which would justify an objection to the renewal of any licence were found.

## SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	...	14
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	...	...	...	...	10
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	...	66
Statutory Notices under Section 157, Housing Act, 1936, before entry for the purpose of Survey and Examination	...	...	...	...	3

## SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied:—

Served 1957	...	...	14	Complied with, 1957	...	14
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1956	...	...	3	Cancelled	...	3
				Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1957	...	Nil
				—		—
			17	—		17

Statutory Notices requiring the provision of dustbins:—

Served, 1957	...	...	10	Complied with by:		
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1956	...	...	1	Owner	...	...
			—	—	—	—
			11	—	—	11
			—	—	—	—

Intimation Notices:—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	188
Outstanding, 31st December, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	81
Served during 1957	...	...	...	...	...	196
Complied with during 1957	...	...	...	...	...	303

### WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

During the year 13 samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the private supply serving Theobalds Secondary Modern School and the Camping Ground at Theobalds Park. One sample only was reported as unsatisfactory and on investigation it was revealed that the storage tank room was infested with hibernating flies. Fumigation of the tank room was carried out followed by cleansing and chlorination of the storage tank. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

One sample of water was taken from the private supply at River Cottage, Halfhide Lane, and the sample was reported upon as satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATH.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Routine tests for free chlorine are carried out with a chlorotex indicator. Seven samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The swimming bath at Theobalds Secondary Modern School is operated on the fill and empty system with water from a chlorinated supply at the school. Supplementary chlorination of the water in the bath is carried out manually. Two samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the season, one was reported as unsatisfactory and the other as satisfactory.

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of 39 movable dwellings at The Willows, Waltham Cross, for a further period of 12 months. A scheme of works submitted by the owner to improve the sanitary accommodation and other facilities on the site during the next three years was approved by the Council.

Consents were also renewed in respect of caravans on the following sites:

- Lowfield Nursery, St. James' Road.
- Springfield Nursery, Crouch Lane.
- Sicklefield Nursery, Appleby Street.
- Land occupied by Smith, St. James' Road.
- Highview Farm, Crouch Lane.
- 209, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.
- Land occupied by Wood, Bulls Cross Ride.
- Pylon Farm, St. James' Road.

A new application was considered in respect of a site at Lea Valley Sand and Ballast Pits, Turnford, and the applicant was informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standing which would be necessary before consent was granted.

A new consent was granted in respect of a caravan at Tolcarne Nursery, Crouch Lane, following the completion of the necessary works of drainage, etc.

An appeal against the refusal of the Council to grant consent for a caravan at Ousden Nursery, Windmill Lane, to house two horticultural workers was allowed at Cheshunt Court in March, and the Justices granted consent.

Proceedings were authorised in respect of a caravan at Dover Field, Goff's Lane, but the van was subsequently burnt out and proceedings were not necessary.

Proceedings which were commenced in 1956 in respect of an unauthorised site at Goff's Oak House, were brought to a conclusion at Cheshunt Court in March. Fresh applications by the owner and individual occupiers of caravans were refused by the Council in February on the grounds that the requirements to satisfy Section 93 (2) of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, as regards roads and sewers had not yet been met. The Justices allowed the appeal of the owner and confirmed that as the works had been completed to the Council's satisfaction on the 15th March, 1957, no consent was necessary. The Justices also confirmed that the daily penalty of £1 fixed to run from the 1st October, 1956, should cease on the 15th March, 1957. The appeals of the individual occupiers were also allowed and consents granted. The works carried out by the owner included concrete standings, concrete roadways, main drainage and provision of electric lighting and the conditions at the site are now satisfactory.

Proceedings authorised in 1956 in respect of movable dwellings at St. Lawrence Farm, Goff's Oak, were heard at Cheshunt Court in March. The Justices fined the owner £5 for letting or permitting land at the farm to be used for movable dwellings without the consent of the Council and ordered that he should pay a daily penalty of 10s. from the 1st June, 1957. The Council were awarded three guineas costs. Subsequent applications by the owner and the individual occupiers for consent were refused by the Council and in further proceedings in October, the Justices confirmed a daily penalty of 10s. and ordered the owner to continue to pay the penalty until 31st December. If by that date the works under Section 93 (2) of the Act had not been completed to the Council's satisfaction the owner was ordered to pay a daily penalty of £1.

## INFESTATION.

Contact insecticides, and where necessary, the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are used to combat infestation.

During the year the assistance of the department was sought to deal with a variety of infestations in or around domestic premises as follows:—

Wasps 9; Earwigs 36; Ants 3; House Flies 2; Bugs 2; Fleas 1; Rabbits 2; Moles 1; Beetles 6.

Where work is undertaken by the department a charge is made.

During the early summer there was a troublesome infestation of houses on the new Church Lane Council Housing Estate by the "Gooseberry or Clover Mite." The houses affected were those abutting on to a newly laid out area of grass. The mites were a considerable nuisance to the tenants.

The Department of Zoology, British Museum, were consulted and they gave the following information:

"The mites feed on plant juices and have been reported as a serious pest of many trees, shrubs and grasses.

"At certain times of the year, April-June and October-November, large numbers of these mites migrate from their natural habitat into dwelling houses. They usually congregate on walls facing south and often enter the building through gaps in the window frames. The numbers of mites build up rapidly on new lawns and recently disturbed ground, e.g., on new building estates.

"Ideally the infestation should be controlled at its source but since this may entail treating large areas of vegetation, it is advisable to concentrate on an area of about 15 feet wide around the infested building.

"Sprays containing derris and pyrethrum are reported to give an effective control.

"The mites are harmless to humans and will not damage furniture or fabrics."

Treatment of the houses provided only temporary relief since the rooms became quickly re-infested with large numbers of mites and treatment of the grass area, which was extensive, had to be undertaken.

## RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st March, 1958

	Type of Property			all other (including Business and Industrial)
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	
Total number of properties	7	8,869	168	1,203
Number of properties inspected	7	354	13	417
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major ... Minor ... Major ... Minor ...	3 4 — — — — 73	1 59 — — — 13 7	2 13 — — — 9 83
Number of infested properties treated	...	...	...	112

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

The annual test baiting of the soil sewers was carried out during March and of 72 manholes tested, partial and complete takes occurred in 22 manholes.

Poison treatment was carried out in the areas where takes were recorded.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit. The life of the present tipping site is approximately two years and the Council had under consideration the arrangements to be made for refuse disposal when the capacity of the present tip is exhausted. Arrangements were approved in principle for tipping outside the district.

A new fore and aft tipping vehicle was put into service in February.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales had been deducted was as follows:—

	Year to 31st March		
	1956	1957	1958
Population .. ..	26,090	27,000	28,050
Net Cost .. ..	£13,625	£16,194	£18,055
Cost per 1,000 population	£522	£600	£643

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, Ltd., for the sale of waste paper, but deliveries which could be accepted from the Council were limited to 25 tons per month.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under contract for three years from 1st March.

Details of salvage sales during the year (to 31st March) together with the figures for 1956/7 are as follows:—

	1956/7		1957/8	
	Income £	Ton'ge	Income £	Ton'ge
Raw Kitchen Waste ..	288	234	295	234
Scrap Metal .. ..	155	7	130	7
Waste Paper .. ..	2496	328	2408	309
Other Salvage .. ..	431	18	411	17
<hr/> Totals .. .. ..	<hr/> 3370	<hr/> 587	<hr/> 3244	<hr/> 567

## REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

No new consents were granted during the year.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licence.

A complaint was received that the animals kept in the shop were exposed to strong artificial light used for window display and advertising purposes. The occupier agreed where necessary to provide screening so that animals exposed to artificial light could seek cover. The Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. was consulted and he was satisfied that the conditions were satisfactory.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	45
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	59
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	19
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	66
Cafes, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 858 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	193
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	48
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	28
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	66
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	25
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	36
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	442

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:

Foods of all descriptions	...	21,158 tins and jars.
Bacon	...	28½ lbs.
Beef	...	176 lbs.
Liver	...	369 lbs.
Ham	...	49½ lbs.
Kidney	...	10 lbs.
Lamb	...	828 lbs.
Heart	...	70 lbs.
Ox tail	...	48 lbs.
Rabbits	...	60 lbs.
Chickens	...	13
Sausages	...	30 lbs.
Various Meats	...	110 lbs.
Fish	...	5½ stone.
Sponge Pudding	...	1

Five complaints were received regarding unfit foodstuffs sold. Four of the complaints related to foreign matter in foodstuffs and the fifth to mould growth on bread. In four cases the Council decided to issue a warning to the firms concerned. The other case concerned a bread roll containing foreign matter which appeared to be rodent excreta. The roll was submitted for laboratory examination and the laboratory report stated that under microscopic examination the foreign bodies in the bread roll appeared to be seeds, probably caraway seeds.

#### MILK SAMPLING.

Fifteen samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

The County Council undertake sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during the year.

## MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1957 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	2
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	17
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There were two slaughterhouses licensed to 31st July, 1957, but the occupier of the slaughterhouse at Andrews Nursery, Andrews Lane, discontinued slaughtering and the licence was not renewed. The licence for the slaughterhouse at 35 High Street, Cheshunt, was renewed until 31st July, 1958.

Both slaughterhouses were approved as Deadweight Certification Centres for Pigs but owing to the low throughput of pigs presented for certification the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, withdrew the approval with effect from 23rd September, 1957.

One hundred and ninety three visits were made to slaughterhouses during the year and details of carcases and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known	185	—	25	851	313	—	—
Number inspected	185	—	25	851	313	—	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	26	—	—	3	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.05	—	—	—	.59	3.83	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	17	—	—	—	8	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	9.19	—	—	—	2.56	—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

#### LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1955, to six applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.

#### REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ...	68	28
Food Preparing Premises ...	22	52
Dairies ...	4	9

#### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947-52.

No contraventions were recorded of the Regulations regarding temperature at which ice cream is to be kept or as to protection from contamination.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

#### ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, by the methylene blue test, and samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 29 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as follows:

Grade I	Wrapped	...	24	82.76%	100%
Grade II	Wrapped	...	2	13.79%	
	Unwrapped	...	2		
Grade III	Unwrapped	...	1	3.45%	

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50% of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I 80% into Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

On this basis the sampling results for the year were satisfactory.

A copy of the laboratory report is supplied to the retailer in respect of all samples taken.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Council are the Food and Drugs authority for the Urban District. During the year 29 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis as follows:

Sample No.	Article	Sample No.	Article
43	Aspirin Tablets B.P.	58	Bread
44	Margarine	59	Pork Sausages
45	Saccharin Tablets	60	Gravy Powder
46	Sherry flavouring	61	Meringue Powder
47	Marzipan	62	Milk Shake
48	French Mustard	63	Dried fruit mixture
49	Curry Powder	64	Cornflour
50	Natural Lemon Juice	65	Ground Ginger
51	Currants	66	Xmas Pudding
52	Protein Rolls	67	Gelatine
53	Cake Mix	68	Sauce
54	Sage	69	Saffron Yellow
55	Essence of Renner	70	Throat Pastilles
56	Porage Oats	71	Super Fine Cooking Oil
57	Beef Cubes		

Samples Nos. 43, 47 and 50 were formal samples and the remainder informal. All the samples were reported upon as genuine.

SAMPLE NO. 59—PORK SAUSAGE—was submitted as the the result of a complaint that sausages from the same source were prone to grow moulds in a short time. The Public Analyst reported that the sausages were allowed to remain unopened at room temperature and did not show any abnormal growth of mould within three days. Subsequent analysis showed the meat content was satisfactory and the sulphur dioxide was within the prescribed limit.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Routine re-inspections of food premises, following the survey carried out in 1956, were continued throughout the year and occupiers of food premises co-operated well in complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

No new educational activity in food hygiene was undertaken during the year.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Adulteration of Food ..	29	Mortuary .. ..	10
Ambulance .. ..	7	Movable Dwellings ..	20
Area .. ..	3	National Assistance Act, 1948 .. ..	
Blood Transfusion ..	10	10	
British Red Cross Society	10	Notifiable Diseases ..	
Day Nursery .. ..	7	11	
Deaths—Cause of ..	5	Overcrowding .. ..	
District Nurses .. ..	9	16	
Factories Act, 1937 — Means of Escape in case of Fire .. ..	18	Pet Animals Act, 1951 ..	
Factories—Inspection of Food Hygiene Regula- tions, 1955 .. ..	17	25	
Food Poisoning .. ..	30	Poliomyelitis .. ..	
Food Premises—Registra- tion of .. ..	12	12	
Health Visitors .. ..	28	Population .. ..	
Home Help Service ..	8	Public Entertainment— Places of .. ..	
Housing Act, 1949—Im- provement Grants ..	17	18	
Housing Statistics ..	30	Refuse Collection and Disposal .. ..	
Ice Cream—Sampling ..	16	24	
Infestation .. ..	16	Refuse Dumps .. ..	
Inspection of the Area ..	14	Regional Hospital Board Services .. ..	
Laboratory Facilities ..	10	7	
Measles .. ..	28	Rent Act, 1957 .. ..	
Meat and other Foods ..	11	15	
Midwives .. ..	22	Rodent Control .. ..	
Milk—Sampling .. ..	9	School Nurses .. ..	
Milk Licences .. ..	26	8	
	27	Service of Notices .. ..	
		Slaughterhouses .. ..	
		Slaughtermen — Licensing of .. ..	
		27	
		Swimming Bath .. ..	
		Tuberculosis .. ..	
		28	
		Unfit Houses .. ..	
		13	
		Vital Statistics .. ..	
		15	
		Water Supply .. ..	
		3	
		Welfare Centres .. ..	
		19	
		Whooping Cough .. ..	
		8	
		12	

